



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 1532

**SPONSOR:** Speaker of the House, Del. Korman, et al.

**HEARING DATE:** March 25, 2026

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Committee on Education, Energy & the Environment

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive, in consultation with The Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS House Bill 1532** and the State's goals of expanding renewable energy and improving permitting efficiency. However, the Commission is concerned that specific provisions of the bill would unintentionally undermine local historic preservation authority and result in worse outcomes for locally designated historic resources.

The bill mandates the statewide use of automated solar permitting software that checks only for compliance with the Maryland Building Performance Standards, the National Electrical Code, and the State Fire Prevention Code and issues immediate, code-compliant permits upon fee payment. The proposed language further limits local review to health and safety considerations. By restricting review to health and safety only, the bill would effectively prevent the County from applying its Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) process, outlined in Subtitle 29, to residential solar installations on Historic Sites and within Historic Districts.

In practice, this would eliminate the Historic Preservation Commission's ability to review, condition, or guide solar installations on designated historic properties, even though those properties remain subject to Subtitle 29. The requirement for immediate permit issuance further removes any opportunity for staff feedback or Commission review. Current historic preservation review of residential solar installations addresses compatibility, visual impacts, and protection of historic materials in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, but does not prohibit solar installations at designated historic properties. In fact, the HPC has worked with multiple historic property owners in recent years to permit both roof-



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mounted and ground-mounted solar installations, using a collaborative design review process to ensure that placement of the solar panels is compatible with the properties' historic character.

We respectfully request that the Bill's Sponsors seek amendments to HB 1532 that clearly preserve local historic preservation authority, such as an exemption or alternative review process for properties subject to Subtitle 29. This approach would allow the State to advance its clean energy goals while maintaining appropriate protections for Prince George's County's historic resources.

The Prince George's County Office of the County Executive and our Historic Preservation Commission appreciates your consideration and is available to provide additional technical input as needed.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1532 WITH AMENDMENTS** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.